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Date 11/22/02

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/345202	Applicant(s)	Martin
Examiner	Akere, J	Group Art Unit	3624

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address--

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/12/02.

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1 - 23 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1 - 23 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 11 Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

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a machine readable code, the machine readable code containing the drawer's account number(Fig 4/600) the drawee's routing number and one or more pieces of information from the group consisting of the following a payee, the amount of the check corresponding to the date the instrument was created, the identity of the drawer, a memo, and a identifier number corresponding to the negotiable instrument(Fig 4/500). Royer does not specifically teach one of the above elements but instead teaches fields for a check verity code(col 7 lines 23-45). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include identity or a memo in the field for identification purposes. The motivation for this is to establish a fraud detection system for checks.

7. As per claim 3 Royer teaches the improved negotiable instrument of claim 2, wherein the improved negotiable instrument is a check(Abstract)(Fig 1).

8. As per claim 4 Royer teaches the improved negotiable instrument of claim 2, wherein the improved negotiable instrument further comprises a date line(Fig 1/70), an identifier number corresponding to the negotiable instrument(Fig 1/80a/80b) and a name and address line of a drawer(Fig 1/15d) and a memo line(Fig 1).

9. As per claim 10, Royer teaches a method for preventing fraud, the method comprising the steps of providing a drawer having an account with a corresponding account number(Fig 1/80B) providing a drawee with a drawee routing number(Fig 1/80A) providing means for creating a negotiable instrument(Abstract) creating at least one negotiable instrument containing at least a payee(Fig 1/30) an amount(Fig 1/40) a date(Fig 1/70), and a drawee's identity(Fig 1/30) providing

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amount(Fig 1/50) a date(Fig 1/70) and a drawer's identity(Fig 1/28/60) and means for creating a machine readable code(Fig 4) the machine readable code containing the drawer's account number, (Fig 4/600)the drawee's routing number and at least one piece of information selected from the group comprising, the payee, the amount, the date, the identity of the drawer, a memo, and a identifier number corresponding to the at least one negotiable instrument(Fig 4/500).Royer does not specifically teach one of the above elements but instead teaches fields for a check verity code(col 7 lines 23-45). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include identity or a memo in the field for identification purposes. The motivation for this is to establish a fraud detection system for checks.

13. As per claim 17 Royer teaches the device of claim 16, wherein the device further comprises means for scanning the machine readable code(Fig 4/400).

14. As per claim 19 Royer teaches the device of claim 17, wherein the device further comprises: means for scanning the information on the negotiable instrument and means for comparing the information from the machine readable code to the information on the negotiable instrument(Fig 4/400).

15. As per claim 20 Royer teaches a method for integrating the creation and processing of negotiable instruments, the method comprising the steps of providing a drawer having an account with a corresponding account number(Fig 1/80B) providing a drawee with a drawee routing number(Fig 1/80A) creating at least one negotiable instrument containing information that contains at least, a payee(Fig 1/50) an amount(Fig 1/40) a date(Fig 1/70) and a drawee's

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identity(Fig 1/60) providing a machine readable code and attaching the machine readable code on the at least one negotiable instrument(Fig 4/90a-90j) the machine readable code containing the drawer's account number(Fig 1/80A/80B), the drawee's routing number and at least one piece of information selected from the group comprising, the payee, the amount me date, the identity of the drawer, a memo, and a identifier number corresponding to the at least one negotiable instrument(Fig 4/500). Royer does not specifically teach one of the above elements but instead teaches fields for a check verity code(col 7 lines 23-45). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include identity or a memo in the field for identification purposes. The motivation for this is to establish a fraud detection system for checks.

16. As per claim 21 Royer teaches the method of claim 20, wherein creating at least one negotiable instrument containing information that contains at least, a payee(Fig 1/30) an amount, (Fig 1/40) a date(Fig 1/70) and a drawee's identity(Fig 1/30), further comprises the step of transferring the information to the drawee bank(Fig 4/900).

17. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Carney(US Pat. No: 6,181,814) in view of Storch(US Pat. No: 5,367,148).

18. As per claim 1, Carney teaches a method for preventing check fraud, the method comprising the steps of providing a bank with a bank routing number and providing a customer having an account with the bank and a corresponding account number(col 2 lines 55-58) having the customer electronically create a check containing at least, a payee, an amount, a date, a customer

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name, and a check number(col 2 line 59-col 3 line 5). Storch teaches attaching a bar code on the check(document)(Abstract) using electronic placement means wherein the bar code contains the customer's account number, the bank's routing number and at least one piece of information selected from the group consisting of, the payee, the amount, the date, the customer's name, and the check number(Abstract)(col 4 lines 25-60). Carney teaches delivering the check to the bank; scanning the bar code; and, paying the check only if the information printed on the check is identical to the at least one piece of information on the bar code(col 4 lines 5-38). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Carney in view of Storch to teach the above and to include an account number in the appended field of the bar code taught by Storch. The motivation to combine is to teach a system for fraud detection for checks(col 4 lines 14-22).

19. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Carney(US Pat.No: 6,181,814).

20. As per claim 6 Carney teaches a method for preventing fraud, the method comprising the a drawee(Abstract)(Fig 1) providing a drawer having an account with the drawee and a corresponding account number(Fig 1) and delivering to the drawee at least one negotiable instrument drawn to the drawer's account(Fig 1). Carney fails to teach putting the at least one negotiable instrument into an electronic format to be viewed on the Internet and viewing the at least one negotiable instrument on the Internet and having the drawer advise the drawee which of

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the at least one negotiable instruments to pay. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply the methods of Carney to the Internet. The motivation for this is to extend the applicability of these techniques to the largest possible market.

21. Claims 5 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Royer(US Pat. No: 6,195,452) and further in view of Storch(US Pat. No: 5, 367,148).

22. As per claim 5 Carney teaches according to claim 4 Carney does not specifically teach the improved negotiable instrument of claim 4, wherein the machine-readable code is a bar code. Storch teaches this(Fig 1)(Fig 2)(Fig 3)(Fig 4). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Royer in view of Storch to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a check fraud detection system as enunciated by Storch(col 4 lines 14-22).

23. As per claim 18 Carney teaches the device according to claim 17. Carney does not specifically teach wherein the machine readable code is a bar code. Storch teaches this(Fig 1)(Fig 2)(Fig 3)(Fig 4). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Royer in view of Storch to teach the above. The motivation for this is to teach a security system against fraud for checks as enunciated by Storch(col 4 lines 14-22).

24. Claims 7-9,12,14-15,22-23 are rejectwed under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Carney(US Pat. No: 6,181,814) in view of Royer(US Pat. No: 6,195,452).

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25. As per claim 7 Carney teaches according to the method of claim 6. Carney does not specifically teach wherein putting the at least one negotiable instrument into an electronic format to be viewed on the Internet comprises the steps of: entering the information from the negotiable instrument into an electronic database. Royer teaches this(col 4 lines 34-37)(col 5 lines 23-32) and linking the electronic database with the drawer's account(col 5 lines 66-col 6 line 20). Royer fails to teach transferring information from the electronic database to the Internet. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Carney in view of Royer to teach the above and to apply this methodology to the internet as an automation of existing technology. The motivation for this is to teach an improved check authentication process as enunciated by Royer(col 1 lines 42-46).

26. As per claim 8 Carney teaches according to the method of claim 6. Carney does not specifically teach wherein viewing the at least one negotiable instrument on the Internet comprises the steps of determining if any of the at least one negotiable instruments were created by the drawer. Royer teaches this(col 3 lines 19-36) and electronically marking any of the at least one negotiable instrument that were created by the drawer(col 3 lines 37-61). Royer fails to teach specifically viewing the instrument on the Internet. Royer fails to teach transferring information from the electronic database to the Internet. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Carney in view of Royer to teach the above and to apply this methodology to the internet as an automation of existing technology. The motivation for this is to teach an improved check authentication process as enunciated by Royer(col 1 lines 42-46).

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27. As per claim 9 Carney teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises the step of paying the at least one negotiable instrument that the drawer has advised the drawee to pay(col 2 lines 49-col 3 line 2).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Carney in view of Royer to teach the above. The motivation for this is to teach an improved check authentication process as enunciated by Royer(col 1 lines 42-46).

28. As per claim 12, Carney teaches the method of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises the steps of the drawee of determining whether information printed on the at least one negotiable instrument is identical to the at least one piece of information on the machine readable code; and, paying the negotiable instrument only if the information on the machine readable code is identical to the at least one piece of information on the at least one negotiable instrument(col 2 line 49-col 3 line 2). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Royer in view of Carney to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a check fraud detection system as enunciated by Carney(col 3 lines 19-21).

29. As per claim 14, Carney teaches the method of claim 13, wherein after scanning the machine readable code, the method comprises the step of automatically comparing the information on the at least one negotiable instrument to the information in the drawee database(col 4 line 66-col 5 line 65)(col 4 lines 16-24).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Royer in view of Carney to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a check fraud detection system as enunciated by Carney(col 3 lines 19-21).

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30. As per claim 15 Carney teaches according to the method of claim 12. Carney does not teach wherein determining whether information printed on the at least one negotiable instrument is identical to the at least one piece of information on the machine readable code comprises the step of notifying the drawer if the information printed on the at least one negotiable instrument is not identical to the at least one piece of information on the machine readable code. Royer teaches this(Fig 4)(col 9 lines 30-52).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Royer in view of Carney to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a check fraud detection system as enunciated by Carney(col 3 lines 19-21).

31. As per claim 22, Carney teaches according to the method of claim 21. Carney does not specifically teach the following elements as further delineated. Royer teaches the method of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises the steps of providing a payee(Fig 1/30) and providing a payee bank; presenting the at least one negotiable instrument to the payee(Fig 4) having the payee scan the machine readable code(Fig 4/400) having the payee electronically transfer the drawer's account number, the drawee's routing number(Fig 1/80A/80B) and the at least one piece of information to the payee bank(Fig 1/90a-90j) and having the payee bank electronically transfer the drawer's account number and the drawee's routing number(Fig 1/80A/80B). Carney teaches information to the drawee bank; having the drawee bank determine whether the drawer's account number(Fig 1/40) the drawee's routing number, and the at least one piece of information supplied by the payee bank are identical to the information transferred to the drawee bank(col 4 lines 50-63) and, having the drawee bank pay the at least one negotiable instrument only if the drawer's

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account number, the drawee's routing number, and the at least one piece of information supplied by the payee bank are identical to the information transferred to the drawee bank(col 7 lines 10-65). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Royer in view of Carney to teach the above. The motivation is to prevent check fraud as enunciated by Carney(col 2 lines 32-42).

32. As per claim 23 Carney teaches according to the method of claim 22. Carney does not specifically teach wherein the method further comprises the steps of providing an integrated system, wherein the drawee and the drawer's creation of the at least one negotiable instrument are linked. Royer teaches this(col 2 lines 20-63) whereby when the at least one negotiable instrument is created(Fig. 1), the information is stored in a drawee database and providing means for the drawer to view the drawer's account(Fig 1/80A/80B). Royer teaches accepting or rejecting checks based on validity(Fig 4/900). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Royer in view of Carney to teach the above and to have the drawee bank automatically update the drawer's account to reflect payment of the at least one negotiable instrument thereby creating an up to date amount in the drawer's account upon acceptance of the check as taught by Royer(Fig 4/900). The motivation for this is to keep a current accurate account balance for customers.

Conclusion

33. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

34. Any questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the examiner of record, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E., who can be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at (703)-306-5844. If attempts to contact the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.

The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft or Informal faxes to Technology Center 2100 or this Art Unit is (703)-308-6296 or 6306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-305-3900.

GRA


August 22, 2002

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)
6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities ~ 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTO-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.